

Remarks:

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Office action dated August 19, 2005.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 3-8, 10-13, 16-17, 20-25, 28-36 and 39 remained pending in the application. Claims 3-4, 10-13, 20-25, 28-29, 32-33 and 39 have been indicated allowable. Claims 5-8, 16-17, 30-31 and 34-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Turner et al. (US 6,438,137).

While applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, applicant has cancelled all of the rejected claims without prejudice to further prosecution in this or any other application.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims.

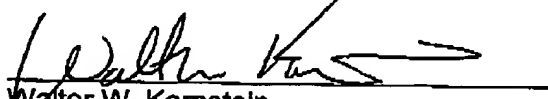
Regarding the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance of claims 3-4, 10-13, 20-25, 28-29, 32-33 and 39, applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the allowed claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicant believes that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

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If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is requested to please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

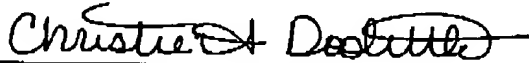
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner K. Emdadi, Group Art Unit 2667, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on October 31, 2005.



Christie A. Doolittle

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